

REMARKS

Claims 1-10 and 13-18 are all the claims pending in the application. By this Amendment, Applicants cancel claims 11, 12, 19, and 20, without prejudice or disclaimer.

I. Drawings:

The Examiner approves of the proposed drawing correction filed on November 21, 2002. Applicants submit replacement Figs. 12-18, which include a "Prior Art" legend.

II. Claim Rejections on Prior Art Grounds:

The Examiner rejects claims 1, 3, 7, 13, 15, and 17 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Applicants' admitted prior art of Figs. 12-18 in view of U.S. 3,646,374 to Jordan et al. ("Jordan"); claims 2, 4-6, 8, 14, 16, and 18 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Applicants' admitted prior art and Jordan, and further in view of JP 56-3557 to Ogami et al. ("Ogami"); and claims 9-12 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being obvious over Applicants' admitted prior art and Jordan **or** Applicants' admitted prior art, Jordan, and Ogami, and further in view of JP 2-136047 to Adachi ("Adachi"). Applicants respectfully traverse all of these rejections in view of the following remarks.

Applicants amend claim 1 to recite that "*the inner wall surfaces of the slots are shaped to be uneven*," which was previously recited in canceled claim ⁵₁₁ and 12. An exemplary embodiment of this feature is depicted in Fig. 10, and discussed in the specification at the first full paragraph of page 22. At least this feature, in combination with the other limitations recited in claim 1, is not taught or suggested by the prior art relied upon by the rejection grounds.

The rejection grounds recognize that Applicants' admitted prior art of Figs. 12-18, Jordan, and Ogami fail to teach or suggest that the inner wall surfaces of the slots are "uneven," and therefore look to Adachi to allegedly teach this feature. (See numbered paragraph 6 of the Office Action). However, the reliance upon Adachi is misplaced.

With reference to Fig. 3 of Adachi, the stator core 1 is formed from a lamination of iron sheets 1a-1n. The two outermost iron sheets 1a, 1n have irregular faces 8 to prevent the resin layer 6 from peeling off of the stator core 1. In sharp contrast to the present invention, however, the inner wall surfaces of the slots (which are separate and distinct surfaces from the end faces 8) are depicted as being uniform and flat in Figs. 5 and 6. Consequently, even if combined in the manner suggested by the rejection grounds, the prior art would still not meet all of the limitations recited in claim 1.

For these reasons, Applicants respectfully assert that claim 1 is patentable, and that claims 2-10 and 13-18 are patentable at least by virtue of their dependencies.

In view of the above, reconsideration and allowance of this application are now believed to be in order, and such actions are hereby solicited. If any points remain in issue which the Examiner feels may be best resolved through a personal or telephone interview, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

AMENDMENT UNDER 37 C.F.R. § 1.116
U.S. Appln. No. 09/879,095 (*Q64715*)

The USPTO is directed and authorized to charge all required fees, except for the Issue Fee and the Publication Fee, to Deposit Account No. 19-4880. Please also credit any overpayments to said Deposit Account.

Respectfully submitted,

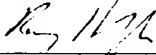
SUGHRUE MION, PLLC
Telephone: (202) 293-7060
Facsimile: (202) 293-7860

WASHINGTON OFFICE



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Ray Heflin
Registration No. 41,060

Date: May 5, 2003